हो चुके हैं। निश्चित तौर पर इसमें तीन चीजें हैं। नम्बर एक, हमारे डिपार्टमेंट मे जो चीफ विजिलेंस आफिसर हैं, एयर इंडिया में जो विजिलेंस आफिसर हैं उनकी एक रिपोर्ट थी। सीएजी की रिपोटर भी आई जिसमें यह कहा गया कि 57 करोड़ रुपए का लाइसेंस यानी इस तरह के पी एल आई देने पर हुआ, लेकिन इस मामले में हमारे पास प्रमाण था, इस मामले की शिकायत हमारे पास थी और इस मामले में जब तथ्य हमारे पास आ गए तो इन्हीं तथ्यों के आधार पर एमडी को हमने सस्पेंड किया। जांच के दौरान उनसे सवाल किया गया तो उनके ऑन्सर से ही 1992-93 का मामला हमारी पकड़ में आया। हमने जो कार्यवाही की है, वह दो आफिसर्स पर की है क्योंकि कुल चार आफिसर्स में से दो रिटायर हो चुके हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Blue-print for the next generation reforms

*21. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated work on drawing up the blue-print for next generation reforms in the foreign investment arena which may further liberalise the investment in sectors such as Telecom, Direct-to-Home (DTH) and Civil Aviation, besides modification in guidelines on dividend repatriation by MNC subsidiaries;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a high-power committee which will review the whole lot of policy measures taken so far and recommend new policy measures; and

(c) if so, by when the Reserve Bank of India is likely to submit its report and take final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) With a view to facilitate flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Government has already put in place a transparent, and investment friendly FDI policy planning almost all activities on the automatic route for FDI up to 100%. Government has set up a Group of Ministers (GoM) to constantly review the FDI policy keeping in view national priorities and sector specific guidelines. The GoM meets periodically to recommend changes in FDI policy after

taking into consideration the recommendations of the concerned administrative Ministries. No separate Committee has been constituted in the RBI in this regard. In the Telecom, Direct-to-Home (DTH) and Civil Aviation sectors recently following FDI liberalisation measures have been taken:

Telecom

FDI up to 100% is allowed for the following activities in the telecom sector subject to 26% disinvestment in favour of the Indian public within a period of 5 years in case the offshore parent company is listed in other parts of the world, and licensing and security requirements.

(i) ISPs not providing gateways (both for satellite and submarine cables)

(ii) Infrastructure providers providing dark fibre (IP Category I)

(iii) Electronic mail

(iv) Voice mail

FDI up to 74% permitted for the following telecom services subject to licensing and security requirements:

(i) Internet service providers with gateways

(ii) Radio paging

(iii) End-to-end bandwidth

Proposals with FDI beyond 49% shall require prior Government approval.

Broadcasting, uplinking hub and DTH

As per guidelines issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, FDI up to 49% is permitted for uplinking hub (teleports) for leasing or hiring out facilities to broadcasters to uplink their TV channels subject to licensing and security requirements and conformity with broadcasting codes.

For DTH, 20% FDI is permitted for distribution of multi-channel TV programmes in Ku-Band by using satellite system by

providing TV signals direct to subscribers subject to licensing and security requirements and conformity with broadcasting codes.

Civil Aviation

40% FDI is permitted in domestic airline sector subject to the condition that no direct/indirect equity participation by foreign airlines. For airports, FDI up to 100% is permitted, with FDI above 74% requiring prior approval of the Government.

Further liberalisation of FDI policy in these sectors shall depend on the recommendations of the GoM. As per extant FDI policy, there is no restriction on dividend repatriation.

Valuation of VSNL

*25. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "VSNL's worth down by Rs.20,000 Cr." which appeared in the Times of India dated the 17th June, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Chief of the VSNL has pointed out that the valuation of VSNL was thrown off the rails even before the privatisation process began in full swing;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to get the matter investigated through an independent agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) the question of advancing the date of withdrawal of monopoly of VSNL from 1.4.2004 to 1.4.2002 was a matter of public debate and it was discussed in various fora. It is in this context that CMD, VSNL had written to the Government regarding the decline of share price of VSNL. However, it was in September, 2000 that the Government took a decision on the actual advancing of the date of withdrawal of monopoly, after working out a suitable compensation package and the decision was announced. There was, thus, no